

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- second occurrence*  
NDH  
12/17/10 In claim 1, line 11, delete <sup>^</sup>to and insert --of --.
- second occurrence*  
NDH  
12/17/10 In claim 11, line 11, delete <sup>^</sup>to and insert -- of --.
- In claim 16, line 1, delete "method" and insert -- fuel --.
- In claim 17, line 1, delete "method" and insert --fuel--.
- In claim 18, line 1, delete "method" and insert -- fuel --.
- In claim 19, line 1, delete "method" and insert -- fuel --.
- In claim 20, line 1, delete "method" and insert -- fuel --.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The method as set forth in the claims is novel in view of the cited prior art. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the method of preparing carbon-derived char wherein the combination of the steps are as set forth in the instant claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."